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A Southward Range Extension for the Keeled Green Snake, *Opheodrys aestivus*

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Mexican records for the keeled green snake are few. Yarrow (1882, p. 100) listed a specimen (USNM 2445) collected at Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and the Chicago Academy of Sciences has another (CA 146, formerly Smithsonian Institution 2444) from the same locality; Gaige (1937, p. 303) reported one from La Vegonia, Tamaulipas; and Smith (1944, p. 145) gave data for another (CNHM 30828) from Horsetail Falls, Santiago, Nuevo Leon. It is now possible to add a fourth locality from considerably farther south.

During a recent field trip to Mexico, I found a specimen of *Opheodrys aestivus* flattened and desiccated on the highway about four miles north of the city limits of Tampico, Tamaulipas. The terrain on each side of the road was relatively open and almost devoid of any shrubby growth such as characterizes much of the habitat of this serpent in the eastern United States. The date was October 26, 1949. When found, the specimen was bright green above, but this color, as usually happens, quickly turned to blue in preservative. This snake is now number 71197 in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

The Tampico locality is roughly 165 miles south southeast of La Vegonia, the southernmost point at which *aestivus* has heretofore been taken. Both Tampico and Matamoros are at low elevations in the Gulf Coastal Plain. The other two stations are considerably higher. The La Vegonia Mine, which lies $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of San Jose, in the oak belt of the San Carlos Mountains, is at an elevation of 2900 feet. Horsetail Falls is approximately 1600 feet above sea level. W. Leslie Burger, who has made a detailed study of the species *Opheodrys aestivus* as a whole, suggests (in correspondence) that this snake "is apparently restricted to the more mesic spots of arid northeastern Mexico and it is similarly restricted in adjacent parts of Texas."

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Since I have borrowed other Mexican specimens to compare with the Tampico snake, I give herewith scale count data for all keeled green snakes that have come to my attention from south of the Rio Grande. Specimen 30828, of the Chicago Natural History Museum collection, has been lost; statistics for it are from Smith's paper (loc. cit.). The scale rows are 17-15 in every case, except in CA 146 where they drop from 17 to 16 for a short distance on the neck and then increase again to 17. There are seven upper labials, one preocular, and two postoculars in all five snakes. The lower labials are eight in all instances, except in AMNH 71197 where the damaged condition of the head makes an accurate check impossible. Other counts

and measurements are!

<i>Specimen</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Ventrals</i>	<i>Sub- Caudals</i>	<i>Temporals</i>	<i>Total length</i>	<i>Tail length</i>
AMNH 71197	Tampico	♂	161	106+	1-2	650+	—
CA 146	Matamoros	♂	160	124	1-2, 1	766	293
CNHM 30828	Horsetail Falls	♀	159	114	1-2	—	—
UMMZ 69251	La Vegonia	♂	157	128	1-2	435	159
USNM 2445	Matamoros	♂	160	107+	1-2	608+	207+

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